

claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Roach et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,434,394) in view Hoffman (U.S. Patent No. 6,543,683) and Morisawa, "Proposal for a processing model for a distributed processing system", 17 May 1996, Vol. 96 No. 41, pages 17-24.

Applicants note that the claims were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) using only Roach et al. and Morisawa. These prior rejections were the basis of Applicants' September 16, 2004 appeal. Applicants note that in this Office Action, the USPTO has reopened prosecution, apparently (from the new citation of Hoffman), in view the arguments in Applicants' Appeal brief and the deficiencies of the grounds of rejection based on Roach et al. and Morisawa.

Applicants note that the effective date as a reference for Hoffman is its U.S. filing date of February 12, 2001. The present invention claims priority from JP 2000-099068 with a date of application of March 31, 2000. Applicants herein are providing a verified English translation of JP '068, thus perfecting priority. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Hoffman should be removed as a reference, and that allowance of this application is now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/817,048

Attorney Docket No. Q63719

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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